

The Tiger in the Trap

Once there was a traveller. He was just getting ready to stop for the night when he heard a low moaning. He found a tiger trapped in a deep pit.

The tiger saw the man and begged, "Please free me from this trap, and I will be grateful to you for the rest of my life."

The traveller agreed and lowered a large branch into the pit for the tiger to climb out. As soon as the tiger was free, he attacked the man.

"Wait!" said the traveller. "I thought you were going to be grateful to me."

"It was men who trapped me," answered the tiger. "So a man should suffer for it."

Just then a hare hopped by and asked what was happening. The tiger explained and then asked if the hare agreed with him.

"First I have to see the pit. Where were you?" the hare asked the tiger.

"Down here," the tiger replied and jumped into the pit.

"Was the branch there too?" asked the hare.

"No," said the tiger. And so the hare took the branch away.

Then the hare turned to the traveller and told him to be on his way.

The tiger cried out as the man walked off. "How could you betray me?"

"You have the fate you deserve and so does the man," answered the hare. (225 words)